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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. Normally, the specialized education of a veterinarian takes four years. In view of the final examinations, the State examination, the presentation and defense of a thesis, and field practice, his education is completed only after four and a half years, and he receives a diploma and the title of veterinary surgeon. In recent years, the training of veterinary surgeons, as well as that of agronomists, has been in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture. Accelerated courses were introduced in 1938 and 1939; they covered the curriculum in two years; were offered by two of the institutes, but were later discontinued.

Number of Veterinarians in the Various Services

2. I estimate that 5,550 veterinary surgeons, graduates of professional schools, are filling positions in the network of agricultural stations; 750 are working in railroad transportation; 100 are engaged in the fight against epizootics; 130 are serving in the quarantine belt; 270 are employed by scientific educational institutions; 300 work in laboratories; 460 do administrative work; 1,000 are occupied in the meat industry (slaughter-houses for meat combines, and other meat-producing enterprises); 250 specialize in animal breeding. In 1947 the total needs for the USSR were estimated at more than 9,000 veterinarians. About 2,000 are needed by the military services.

3. In addition to the veterinary surgeons, who have received a higher education, the Soviet Union has auxiliary personnel: assistant veterinarians or veterinary technicians. These receive a specialized secondary education and act as assistants to the veterinary surgeons. They are not permitted to work as independent specialists, and assist the surgeons under supervison. In 1947-48 they numbered several tens of thousands. The kolkhoz and sovkhoz veterinary orderlies or "prophylactors" pass through a short training period intended to prepare them for this type of work in

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kolkhozes and sovkhozes exclusively. Their task is to carry out sanitary measures in strict accordance with instructions given by the veterinary surgeons.

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4. A veterinary surgeon with a specialized higher education, acquired under a normal program and plan of study, is thoroughly qualified for his work and competent to deal with problems covering all branches and developments of veterinary medicine. During 1948-49, the training capacity of the institutes lagged far behind the needs for trained veterinarians, and many positions were not filled, especially in the sparsely populated areas and in areas remote from railroads and cities.

5. A great number of cattle was lost during World War II, and a program of intensified breeding by means of natural and artificial fertilization (the last is widely used in the Soviet Union), has been promulgated by the authorities at the expense of a meat shortage for the consumers in consequence of the ban of slaughtering cattle except under a governmental plan. [redacted] prior to the recent disclosures of lags in Soviet agriculture and especially in the cattle industry by Nikita Khrushchev and the proposed new Soviet agricultural program. All governmental orders and instructions aiming at an increase in cattle breeding are directed towards the elimination of infectious and contagious diseases in animals.

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6. There are a number of reasons which have caused emaciation and a large death rate among cattle, and horses. Some of these reasons are: the large concentration (collectivization) of cattle in buildings which were unsuitable and had not been properly equipped for the purpose; the lack of cooperation of farmers of the kolkhoz system; fodder shortages; irregular feeding, which was insufficient in quantity and poor in quality; long intervals between feeding caused by shortages of fodder; and excessive working, of horses in particular. This insufficient nourishment, emaciation, and excessive work sapped the physical resistance of the cattle to sicknesses.

7. Infectious diseases spread among the cattle and among the sheep and hogs. The men in charge of the kolkhozes and sovkhozes obtained their positions by chance and had no knowledge whatsoever of animal husbandry. Instructions on ways to improve the living conditions of animals and orders concerning sanitary measures were ignored. Quarantine rules were not observed at all. As a result, the position of veterinary surgeons became very difficult. They were falsely accused and branded as "enemies of the people" and "enemies of the State". Thousands of them perished behind the walls of the secret police and as exiles in the Far North.

8. At veterinary training institutes prior to World War II, the equipment for newly opened veterinary training institutes was received from Germany under a trade agreement. Such equipment included microscopes, made by Zeiss, with a magnifying capacity of 1,200, trichinoscopes with great magnifying capacity, stethoscopes, other apparatus for histological research, and microphones. At present these factories are in Soviet Zone of Germany. The dyes used in the laboratory work of the institutes for coloring sensitive substances which are being analyzed, are aniline dyes of German manufacture. Dyes are also used for medicinal and prophylactic purposes. Photoscreens used in lectures on various subjects are not sufficiently perfected, which inconveniences the students. There is a considerable shortage of microscopes of great magnifying capacity and microtomes for physiological research. Experimental research institutes of importance to the State or to the military are satisfactorily equipped as regards both quantity and quality of equipment; among these are the Experimental Institute in Moscow and the military academy, Vetacademiya [Veterinary Academy?], in Leningrad.

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9. The equipment of veterinary hospitals varies in accordance with the geographical location of the area in respect to military strategy, local conditions, railroad junctions, population centers. At the railroad junctions are located new hospitals which have standardized facilities, as follows: an arena, where sick animals are brought; shelters for sick animals, with an apparatus for fixing broken bones; a station for sick animals left for treatment, especially horses, but also other animals, with 15 to 20 specially-equipped stalls; a pharmacy equipped to meet the needs of the hospital qualitatively and quantitatively. A dispensary may or may not exist, depending on the head of the hospital. The veterinary surgeon in charge replenishes his supplies by filling requisitions for medicines, instruments, and surgical supplies with the nearest supply center. He orders everything he needs to carry on his work, including biotics and sundry equipment for the medical work of the hospital. There is also a room for visitors or a waiting room for visitors and patients with sick animals who await their turn. About 500 meters from the hospital is a quarantine building for animals suffering from infectious diseases and also for those which are suspected of having a contagious disease. Such a quarantine building may have accommodations for 20-30 or even 50 sick animals, depending on where it is located, with equipped stalls for large animals, such as horses and cattle, and for small animals like dogs, sheep, etc.

10. In standard hospitals provisions have been made for a doctor's office to carry on business and work. The equipment depends on the doctor himself. Usually within 50 meters from the hospital proper is a building for the personnel, the doctor and the veterinary technicians who assist him. There are also rooms near the hospital for the orderlies, i.e., the men who take care of the sick animals, who also maintain and clean the hospital building, and feed, water and clean the animals themselves.

11. The equipment of a hospital depends on the doctor in charge of the hospital. Large hospitals have appliances for electrotherapy, hydrotherapy and electrical surgery. The preparation or compounding of medicines for the sick animals in the hospital and the out-patients is performed by a technician appointed by the surgeon. Large hospitals have a special pharmacist, who in addition to a high school education has had special pharmaceutical training. The personnel of the hospital depends on the density of population in the area and on the number of sick animals brought in. In large population centers, the staff consists of two surgeons, two technicians, two orderlies, who also do the cleaning, and a pharmacist. The personnel are all government employees. Small hospitals are given a horse for necessary trips; large hospitals have a car to call on the sick animals in the area serviced by the hospital. Thus, all the hospital buildings form a small settlement, which is usually surrounded by a palisade or a fence.

12. However, in sparsely populated areas, removed from railroads and cities, veterinary hospitals are mostly located in houses which have been adapted to this purpose and are poorly equipped; sometimes such hospitals have no surgeon and are run by a veterinary technician who has only the high school equivalent of a technical education, and is also a government employee. A veterinary technician has either a high school or grammar school education and two years of specialized training. A veterinary surgeon who has graduated from a veterinary institute as a doctor gets a job, and whether he is a bacteriologist in a bacteriological laboratory or works in the railroad transport system, a slaughterhouse, or a hospital, his salary during the first years amounts to 400, 450, and 500 rubles. After five years, he receives a raise on a percentage basis. Thus, after having worked for seven or eight years, he may be able to earn up to 600 rubles; later the percentage of the raise is increased. A veterinary technician earns 250 rubles; he also gets percentage raises as time goes by. Orderlies who do the cleaning and take care of the animals receive 150 to 200 rubles.

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13. Veterinary institutions are established in accordance with the political divisions of the USSR to take care of sick animals. Republics are divided into rayons, and each rayon includes several rural soviets, not a definite number. Sometimes there are more and sometimes less -- on an average from 15 to 20. Each rayon has an appropriation in its budget for a veterinary hospital with the staff as shown above. Some large rural councils have appropriations for veterinary centers, and two or three rural councils may have veterinary technicians who act under the orders of the rayon veterinary surgeon and assist him in supervising the sanitation condition of the cattle in the area. Administratively, however, rural veterinary census is under the jurisdiction of the chairman of the rural council.

14. Bacteriological stations include a veterinary surgeon with a bent for bacteriology, a laboratory technician, and an orderly. The equipment is usually adequate for the necessary analyses and bacteriological examinations. Usually, the equipment consists of a microscope with a 1200 or more magnifying capacity, a trichinoscope with a 250-500 magnifying capacity, a Koch boiler for sterilizing, apparatus to keep alive bacteriological cultures, the necessary dyes for coloring microorganisms, various compounds, vessels, a thermostat, and a small number of laboratory animals, such as rabbits, white mice and sometimes cats, depending on the needs. Such stations are located in buildings which either have been specially erected or adapted for the purpose.

15. Veterinary Institutes in the USSR exist in Leningrad, Kharkov, Kazan', Omsk, Kiev, Vitebsk, Novocherkask, Saratov, and Voronezh. In recent years, the Veterinary Academy in Moscow has trained veterinary surgeons for the Army. This last-named institute graduated 1,000 veterinarians in 1948.

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